

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Claims 1-147 (Cancelled).

148. (Currently Amended) A pre-packaged cheese bag, said bag comprising:
a single sheet of web material including a hood ~~having~~ defined by a fold located between first and second ends of said hood, said hood also having first and second areas of structural weakness respectively located intermediate said fold and said first and second ends of said hood, said fold being defined by said first and second areas of structural weakness and defining a top of said cheese bag;

a first side panel included in said sheet of web material and extending from said first end of said hood;

a second side panel included in said sheet of web material;

a bottom portion included in said sheet of web material and located intermediate said first and second panels, said bottom portion defining a bottom of said cheese bag;

a reclosable fastener structure including first and second interlockable fastener tracks each having a skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom, said skirt structures each including a distal portion, one of said distal portions being coupled to said first end of said hood and said first side panel, the other of said distal portions being coupled to said second end of said hood;

a backing strip coupled to the one of said skirt structures that includes the one of said distal portions that is coupled to said second end of said hood, said backing strip having an edge extending downwardly from said other of said distal portions; and

an opening located between said downwardly extending edge of said backing strip and said second side panel;

wherein said first and second interlockable fastener tracks of said reclosable fastener structure extend into said hood toward said top of said reclosable bag above said areas of

structural weakness;

said pre-packaged cheese bag being filled with at least one cheese through said opening, said opening being configured to be sealed closed.

149-151. (Cancelled).

152. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said skirt web material is integral to said reclosable fastener structure.

153. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said skirt web material is coupled to said reclosable fastener structure.

154. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 152, wherein said integral skirt includes an outside surface and an inside surface; wherein the distal margin is located on the outside surface; wherein the inside surface includes a predetermined area having a releasable adhesive material thereon; whereby a peelable seal may be formed.

155. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said sheet of web material of said pre-packaged bag is substantially comprised of a sheet of a parent film material having predetermined dimensions.

156. (Cancelled).

157. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said first and second areas of structural weakness are integral to said sheet of

web material.

158. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said first and second areas of structural weakness extend linearly across a predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material.

159. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 158, wherein said predetermined dimension is width.

160. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 158, wherein said predetermined dimension is length.

161. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said first and second areas of structural weakness extend non-linearly across a predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material.

162. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 161, wherein said predetermined dimension is width.

163. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 161, wherein said predetermined dimension is length.

164. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said first and second areas of structural weakness extend across a predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material in a predetermined pattern.

165. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said first and second areas of structural weakness comprise perforations.

166. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said first and second areas of structural weakness comprise scoring.

167. (Previously Presented) A pre-packaged cheese bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said first and second areas of structural weakness microperforations.

168. (Cancelled).

169. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

- a single sheet of web material including a first area of structural weakness and a second area of structural weakness;

- said sheet of web material including at least one fold structure located between and defined by said first and second areas of structural weakness, said fold structure defining a top of said reclosable bag;

- said sheet of web material including a first panel coupled to said fold structure adjacent said first area of structural weakness and a second panel;

- a bottom portion included in said sheet of web material and located intermediate said first and second side panels, said bottom portion defining a bottom of said reclosable bag;

- a fastener structure for reclosably sealing said reclosable bag, said fastener structure including a male track structure and a female track structure;

- said male track structure including a first skirt structure of web material extending therefrom and said female track structure including a second skirt structure of web

material extending therefrom;

each said skirt structure including a predetermined coupling portion;

said coupling portion of said first skirt structure being coupled to said first panel and said coupling portion of said second skirt structure being coupled to said fold structure adjacent said second area of structural weakness;

said fastener structure extending past said areas of structural weakness and into said fold structure;

said areas of structural weakness being located below said fastener structure;

a backing strip coupled to said second skirt structure and having an edge extending downwardly from said second skirt structure; and

an opening located between said backing strip and said second side panel; said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product through said opening, after which said opening may be sealed closed.

170-178. (Cancelled).

179. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

a single sheet of web material including a first area of structural weakness and a second area of structural weakness;

said sheet of web material including at least one fold structure located between and defined by said first and second areas of structural weakness, said fold structure defining a top of said reclosable bag;

said sheet of web material including a first panel coupled to said fold structure adjacent said first area of structural weakness and a second panel;

a bottom portion included in said sheet of web material and located intermediate said first and second side panels, said bottom portion defining a bottom of said reclosable

bag;

a fastener structure for reclosably sealing said reclosable bag including a male track structure and a female track structure;

said male track structure including a first skirt structure of web material extending therefrom and said female track structure including a second skirt structure of web material extending therefrom;

each of said first and second skirt structures including a predetermined coupling portion;

said coupling portions of said first and second skirt structures being respectively coupled to said first panel and said fold structure adjacent said second area of structural weakness;

said second skirt structure including a backing strip;

an opening for filling said bag with at least one food product located generally between said backing strip and said second side panel, said opening being closeable after filling said bag by sealing said backing strip to said second side panel;

said fastener structure extending past said areas of structural weakness and into said fold structure.

180-186. (Cancelled).

187. (Currently Amended) A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

a single sheet of web material including a hood ~~having~~ defined by a fold located between first and second ends of said hood, said hood also having first and second areas of structural weakness respectively located intermediate said fold and said first and second ends of said hood, said fold defining a top of said reclosable bag;

a first side panel included in said sheet of web material and extending from said

first end of said hood;

a second side panel included in said sheet of web material;

a bottom portion included in said sheet of web material and located intermediate said first and second side panels, said bottom portion defining a bottom of said reclosable bag;

a reclosable fastener structure including first and second interlockable fastener tracks respectively having first and second skirt structures of skirt web material extending therefrom, said first and second skirt structures each including a distal portion, said distal portion of said first skirt structure being coupled to said first end of said hood and said first side panel, said distal portion of said second skirt structure being coupled to said second end of said hood;

a backing strip coupled to said second skirt structure and having an edge extending downwardly from said distal portion of said second skirt structure; and

an opening located between said edge of said backing strip and said second side panel, said opening being closeable by sealing said backing strip to said second side panel;

wherein said first and second interlockable fastener tracks of said reclosable fastener structure extend into said hood toward said top of said reclosable bag above said areas of structural weakness, and wherein said reclosable bag is capable of being filled with at least one food product through said opening.

188. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said skirt web structures are integral to said first and second interlockable fastener tracks.

189. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said skirt web structures are coupled to said first and second interlockable fastener tracks.

190. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said skirt structures each include an outside surface and an inside surface, and each of said outside and inside surfaces includes a respective upper and lower portion.

191. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 190, further comprising:

a backing strip adhesively joined to said inside surface of said skirt structure having its distal portion coupled to said sheet of web material near the portion of said hood most distal from said first panel.

192. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 191, wherein said backing strip extends below said lower portion of said inside surface of said skirt structure having its distal portion coupled to said sheet of web material near the portion of said hood most distal from said first panel.

193. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag of as defined in Claim 187, wherein said sheet of web material of said reclosable bag is substantially comprised of a single sheet of a parent film material having predetermined dimensions.

194. (Previously Presented) A parent film material as defined in Claim 193, wherein said areas of structural weakness are integral to said parent film material.

195. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said areas of structural weakness extend linearly across a predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material.

196. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 195, wherein said

predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material is width.

197. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 195, wherein said predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material is length.

198. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said areas of structural weakness extend nonlinearly across a predetermined dimension of said sheet of said sheet of web material.

199. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 198, wherein said predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material is width.

200. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 198, wherein said predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material is length.

201. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said areas of structural weakness extend across a predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material in a predetermined pattern.

202. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said areas of structural weakness comprise perforations.

203. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said areas of structural weakness comprise scoring.

204. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said areas of structural weakness comprise microperforations.

205. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said sheet of web material is comprised of a multiple laminate film.

206. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 205, wherein said multiple laminate film comprises at least one layer of material comprising a tear path.

207. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said reclosable fastener structure comprises a slider fastener assembly.

208. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said reclosable fastener structure comprises a zipper fastener assembly.

209. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said reclosable fastener structure comprises a press-to-close fastener assembly.

210. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, additionally comprising:

a peelable seal located between said first and second side panels.

211. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 187, wherein said bottom portion comprises:

a gusseted portion extending between said bottoms of said front and rear panels, said gusseted portion defining said bottom of said reclosable bag.

212. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

a single sheet of web material defining:

a front panel having a top, a bottom, and sides;
a rear panel having a top, a bottom, and sides;
a bottom portion extending between said bottoms of said front and rear panels, said bottom portion defining a bottom of said reclosable bag; and
a hood portion having a fold located at an intermediate location therein which fold defines a top of said reclosable bag, said hood portion having sides and first and second downwardly extending opposite ends, said first of said downwardly extending opposite ends being connected to said top of said rear panel;

an area of structural weakness located in said hood portion at an intermediate location between said fold and each of said first and second downwardly extending opposite ends;

a reclosable fastener including first and second interlockable fastener tracks respectively having first and second skirt structures of skirt web material extending downwardly therefrom, said first and second skirt structures each including a distal portion, said distal portions of said first skirt structure being coupled to said hood at said first downwardly extending opposite end, said distal portions of said second skirt structure being coupled to said hood at said second downwardly extending opposite end; and

a backing strip coupled to said second skirt structure and having an edge extending downwardly from said distal portions of said second skirt structure; and

a fill opening located generally between said downwardly extending edge of said backing strip and said top of said front panel, said fill opening being closeable after filling said bag by sealing said backing strip to said top of said front panel;

wherein at least said first and second interlockable fastener tracks of said reclosable fastener extend above said areas of structural weakness and into said hood, and wherein said reclosable bag is capable of being filled with at least one food product through said

fill opening.

213. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 212, wherein said bottom portion comprises:

a gusseted portion extending between said bottoms of said front and rear panels, said gusseted portion defining said bottom of said reclosable bag.

214. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

a single sheet of web material including a hood having first and second ends of said hood and a fold located between said first and second ends of said hood, said hood also having a first area of structural weakness located intermediate said first end of said hood and said fold and a second area of structural weakness located intermediate said second end of said hood and said fold, said fold defining a top of said reclosable bag;

a first side panel included in said sheet of web material and extending from said first side of said hood;

a second side panel included in said sheet of web material;

a bottom portion included in said sheet of web material and located intermediate said first and second panels, said bottom portion defining a bottom of said reclosable bag;

a reclosable fastener structure including a first mating track structure and a second mating track structure, said first mating track structure including a first skirt structure of web material extending therefrom and said second mating track structure including a second skirt structure of web material extending therefrom, each said skirt structure including a distal coupling portion, said distal coupling portion of said first skirt structure being coupled to said first end of said hood, said distal coupling portion of said second skirt structure being coupled to said second end of said hood;

a backing strip mounted on the side of said second skirt structure opposite said

second end of said hood, said backing strip being coupled to said second skirt structure and having an edge extending downwardly from said second skirt structure; and

a fill opening located generally between said downwardly extending edge of said backing strip and said second side panel, said fill opening being closeable after filling said bag by sealing said backing strip to said second side panel;

wherein said first and second mating track structures extend above said areas of structural weakness and into said hood toward said top of said reclosable bag, and wherein said reclosable bag is capable of being filled with at least one food product through said fill opening.

215. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 214, wherein said bottom portion comprises:

a gusseted portion extending between said bottoms of said front and rear panels, said gusseted portion defining said bottom of said reclosable bag.

216. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 148, wherein said bottom portion comprises:

a gusseted portion extending between said first and second panels, said gusseted portion defining said bottom of said reclosable bag.

217. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 169, wherein said bottom portion comprises:

a gusseted portion extending between said first and second side panels, said gusseted portion defining said bottom of said reclosable bag.

218. (Previously Presented) A reclosable bag as defined in Claim 179, wherein said bottom portion comprises:

a gusseted portion extending between said first and second side panels, said gusseted portion defining said bottom of said reclosable bag.